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STATINTL

Allen Dulles' Voice Added To Cuba Chorus

Allen W. Dulles, director of our Central Intelligence Agency from 1953 to 1961 now has added his voice to the chorus of opinion concerning the threat, or lack thereof, which Cuba presents to the United States.

What he has to say commands attention. It should be balanced off, we think, against what others also have had to say on this score.

Sen. J. William Fulbright, in his now highly controversial comments of a short time ago, was inclined to dismiss Cuba as more of a nuisance than a threat as far as the continental United States is concerned.

Sen. Thomas Dodd, in a swift countering statement, saw Cuba as a menace our nation must take vigorous steps to check. He cited Castro as a danger which must be dealt with and if possible overthrown by an internal revolt.

Mr. Dulles sees Cuba as a dangerous breach in our defense against communism in this hemisphere. Our lack of decisive action to deal with Castro has convinced Khrushchev, Mr. Dulles believes, that he can push forward his campaign of subversion on a global basis since we do not react vigorously when he brings it to our very doorstep.

This is a challenging theory.

Mr. Dulles makes it the more so by opining that the United States, and its Free World allies, currently lack the defenses against penetration and subversion of the type in which the Communists have revealed themselves so proficient—and so menacing.

How would he have us deal with this?—

By teaching the nature of communism, by assessing its appeal among the underdeveloped nations and by accepting the challenge to prove the superiority of our society.

All of us, we think, should note well an added recommendation which he made.

This was that the United States capitalize on the evident failures of the Communist giants.

And this, frankly, Washington has not done and is not doing at the moment.

This being so we think it would be most unfortunate if Mr. Dulles' comments and recommendations were to be met only by Administration silence.